

The Lesson for Young People

W. T. ELLIS

1. *The busy Christ is our example in work.*

"My life has been permanently influenced toward greater industry," said a man the other day, "by association with Mr. Blank. He is the most prodigious toiler I ever knew; he is consumed by a perfect passion for work. At all hours and in all places, in spite of weariness or sickness, he toils terribly. The cry of his life seems to be, 'I must work.'" The example of Jesus should affect us in the same way. He was a busy worker. He traveled all about Galilee, as the lesson tells us, teaching, preaching, and healing. His life was so crowded that he often had to steal away in the night for a quiet time with his Father.

2. *Nothing that troubles us can be too small to interest Jesus.*

A certain American statesman once declared, "I have no time for individuals"—a sentiment that is remembered to his disgrace. Jesus was all compassion. The sight of people in need always touched his heart. There is not a soul that suffers to day who has not the keen sympathy of the Savior.

3. *Our need of Jesus is our one great need.*

The shepherd nature in Jesus was always showing itself, as in the text. Because people had not him for a shepherd they were faint and tired and hungry, and harrassed with cares as with wolves. That is the state of lives without Christ. Troubles attack them on every side, and a deep soul dissatisfaction and unrest weighs them down.

4. *Are we ready to be sent out as God's missionaries?*

In some crowded portions of the earth the need is for bigger harvest fields. Distress comes because there are too many laborers and too little land. That is not the case with the kingdom. We do not need a greater harvest field, but more workers. We do not have to pray that the Lord will open up other parts of the earth to the gospel's sound, but that he will thrust forth more laborers into the ripe fields that already await the sickle. Perhaps some of us will find our prayer answered as the apostles did—by being made laborers ourselves.

5. *No mortal has ever received as much of the gospel as Christ is willing to give.*

Niagara Falls and the ocean give one a conception of abundance. There seems no limit to the waters. They are like the gospel in this. "Freely give," commanded the Master. Without recompense and without stint, the apostles were to bestow the lavish gospel upon all needs and all men. There is absolutely no limit to the supply of the gospel.

6. *The greatest work in the world is preaching the gospel.*

The noblest work in the world—if we may speak of one post of duty as being nobler

than another—is the work of the missionary. That is what Jesus sent the twelve to be. The word apostle means the same as missionary. As those chosen and honored few were sent forth with life and healing in their power, so to-day God is calling for his choicest friends to follow in their train. Only three times did Paul use the word ambition, and one of them was in connection with his work as a foreign missionary; he was ambitious to preach the gospel in new regions. A loftier ambition cannot enter into the heart of any young person.

7. *Jesus will admit the least of us into closest fellowship with himself.*

Christ had many followers during his ministry; he had also a few particular friends. From this inner circle he chose the twelve who were to be his ambassadors and the founders of his church. On them he laid especial responsibility and honor; from them he asked great results. We have the choice of being among the multitude who follow Christ afar off, or of being of those who are nearest and dearest to him.

8. *The place where we are is the place to begin to work for Christ.*

The apostles were to minister at this time only to the Jews. They were to begin their work at home. Their first duty was the nearest one. We cannot be good missionaries in Africa if we are not busy, soul-winning Christians at home. We are to prove our commission right where we are. If God cannot use us there he cannot use us anywhere.

Terse Teachings

Whom Christ calls he feeds.

God always pays highest wages.

Whom the Lord sends he qualifies.

Diligence is one proof of devotion.

A mercenary missionary is a paradox.

The lost sheep need the good Shepherd. Healing and help are handmaidens of truth.

The ripe harvest makes the laborer's responsibility.

All the world's ailments are healed by Christ.

Not all of Christ's friends are willing to be apostles.

God uses many messengers that he may reach all men.

Christ chooses his worthiest friends for his greatest work.

Church News

From Falls City

It seems hardly possible that two months have passed since our last report, but here we are with so much to say that we are puzzled to know how to say it briefly enough to economize in taking your valuable space. But, to begin: Our mid-week prayer meeting is becoming a powerful factor in the spiritual life of our church. As I have said to our people, "It is the pulse of the church."

As by laying the finger upon the wrist we may feel the heart pulsations of the life current thru the physical body, so by attending the prayer meeting you may feel the heart throbs of the life of Jesus coursing thru his body—the church. It is not strange then that during April a young lady of the neighborhood coming into the prayer meeting, came in contact with this "river of living water" that is to flow out from those who are the Lord's, and being overwhelmed by it, made confession of Christ as her Savior and was buried with him by baptism. This is the third case within a year from this single means of grace—the mid week prayer meeting.

Over in Missouri. Brother M. L. Norman and wife, the members of my church, live over in Missouri near Mound City, about twenty-five miles from here, and at their invitation I went over to preach them some sermons at a union meeting house where they are interested in Sunday school. I preached Saturday evening and Sunday morning to very good and appreciative congregations, and believe some good seed was sown. Mrs. Braker was with me and we enjoyed the visit very much, being royally entertained by Brother and Sister Norman to whom we again express our appreciation.

Our church is moving along nicely along all lines of work, except perhaps at Silver Creek, which is very seriously feeling the loss of several families who have moved into or close to town, and of course attend the town church. Especially is the Sunday-school in town growing in numbers and interest. Brother John Lichty has been elected teacher of the adult Bible class, which is continually growing. We are glad of the homecoming of brother Samuel Kimmel and wife, who have been spending the winter in California. Brother Kimmel was teacher of the above Bible class before going away and now on his return he at once begins the formation of a new class for which we heartily commend him.

The K. C. is doing well under the newly elected president, Miss Debbie Mower. The S. S. C. E. is actively engaged as ever in doing good,—the Lord reward them. Our brother, A. J. Hixson, district evangelist, visited us recently and held a missionary convention which I will report in another column. Last Sunday evening we received into church fellowship Brother and Sister Wills, by relation, from the German Baptist church.

An awakening. The Christian people of our town are awakening to the fact that its five saloons are sending our young men to perdition and giving us a very unsavory reputation in the surrounding country; so with the help of God we mean to run it dry next year. Dr. Carns, state superintendent of the National Anti-Saloon League, came down from Lincoln on Sunday, 6th inst., and by a union meeting in the Methodist church organized the Christian people of the town into a local branch of the National Anti Saloon League, with our brother E. R. Mathers